

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Nepal
Program Title:	Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	367-007
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$5,300,000 DA; \$600,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$5,587,000 DA; \$1,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2001
Estimated Completion Date:	FY 2006

Summary: This program addresses critical problems of poor governance, weak rule of law, and inconsistent democratic practices -- issues that slow economic development, fuel an ongoing Maoist insurgency and erode public confidence in democratic institutions. The program provides training and technical assistance to: 1) improve the democratic functioning and management capacity of community-based natural resource management groups; 2) strengthen participation, advocacy, and oversight by civil society groups to hold government more accountable to the needs of the poor and marginalized; 3) enhance leadership skills of elected women, community leaders, and under-represented (lower caste and ethnic/regional minority) groups; and 4) build the capacity of, and cooperation between, government and non-governmental organizations that play critical roles in safeguarding and advancing democracy and rule of law. The program emphasizes assistance to improve citizen participation in governance and improve the performance of institutions that can enhance access to justice, combat corruption, improve the management of natural resources, and address human rights abuses.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Increase Capacities of Natural Resource Management (NRM) User Groups (\$1,400,000 DA). USAID will fund training for 700 community-based NRM user groups in leadership, record keeping, financial management, transparency, and benefit sharing. This component will assist district and local governments in participatory planning to use revenues from natural resources, including hydropower projects. Principal grantees include: CARE/Nepal (prime), World Wildlife Fund, Resource Identification and Management Society, Research Institute of Training in Irrigation, and Appropriate Technology.

Improve Performance of Selected Institutions (\$3,800,000 DA). This component will provide assistance to strengthen justice sector and government anti-corruption organizations. Training and equipment will be provided for newly established anti-corruption tribunals, prosecutor units, and other key government and civil society organizations. Assistance also will be provided to establish improved standards and practices for more transparent and accountable management of public funds by local and central government departments. Local, regional, and national non-partisan civil society groups, federations and coalitions will be trained in policy analysis and advocacy skills. Principal grantees include: National Democratic Institute, The Asia Foundation (prime), Pro Public, Informal Sector Service Center, Forest Action (subs). Other U.S. and Nepali partners will be selected.

Increase Women's Participation and Combat Trafficking (\$100,000 DA, \$600,000 ESF). Over 5,000 local women leaders will be trained on effective representation. Training also will be extended to other under-represented (lower caste and ethnic/regional minority) groups, when possible. Literacy training and materials will be provided to 8,000 women, and post-literacy materials will be made available countrywide. Anti-trafficking activities will include awareness-raising for recent migrants to urban areas, developing information packages on safe external migration, and supporting GON anti-trafficking enforcement/prosecution initiatives. Skills training will be provided to facilitate the occupational reintegration of returned trafficking victims. Principal grantees for women's participation include: National

Democratic Institute (prime); CARE (prime), Center for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), Pact, and Winrock (subs). Principal grantees for anti-trafficking include: The Asia Foundation (prime), Women Rehabilitation Center (WOREC), Center for Legal Research and Resource Documentation (CeLRRD), Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD), Center for Victims of Torture (CVICT), Agroforestry, Basic Health and Cooperatives (ABC Nepal), National Network Against Girl Trafficking (NNAGT), Maiti Nepal, and the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Federation (subs).

FY 2004 Program:

Increase Capacities of Natural Resource Management (NRM) User Groups (\$1,750,000 DA). Capacity building for community groups and their federations will continue, chiefly via training in group management, financial management, governance, advocacy and resource management. This component will also link community NRM user groups to GON environmental law/corruption prosecution efforts. USAID will assist 39 community forest and buffer zone groups in revising their operational plans. Two areas affected by hydropower projects will be made aware of government policies on compensation and impact mitigation.

Improve Performance of Selected Institutions (\$3,537,000 DA, \$750,000 ESF). Justice sector reform and anti-corruption activities will continue with nascent rule-of-law and anti-corruption coalitions, as well as efforts to strengthen civil society's capacity to conduct policy analysis, advocacy, and ombudsman role. Media training will be linked to these efforts. Assistance will be provided to support civil society and GON initiatives to ensure that women and members of disadvantaged groups are better prepared to qualify for the civil service, and to increase their representation.

Increase Women's Participation and Combat Trafficking (\$300,000 DA and \$250,000 ESF). Training and advocacy activities aimed at increasing women's political participation and leadership -- as well as the leadership of other under-represented (lower-caste and ethnic/regional minority) groups -- will continue. Assistance for anti-trafficking initiatives will emphasize strengthened and diversified prevention activities, as well as improved national and transnational anti-trafficking enforcement. A pilot project on reintegration of victims of trafficking also will be implemented.

Performance and Results: The program has made slow but steady progress toward achieving its targeted results in strengthening the advocacy capacity of civil society groups, increasing women's participation, improving natural resource management, enhancing voter awareness, and combating trafficking. Advocacy training was provided to 950 members of forestry, irrigation, and women's groups in four districts leading to the subsequent formation of eight district level coalitions on natural resource management and women's issues -- a significant step toward their political empowerment. A new program to increase women's political participation and functional literacy in 12 districts is in its initial phase. Voter education activities and the training of women candidates was delayed when elections were postponed indefinitely. Before the polls were suspended, district election officials and local civic/political leaders were trained in conducting elections; voter education materials were produced; and a highly successful radio drama on voters' rights had been aired in ten local languages.

Activities to combat the trafficking of women and children were less affected by the political turmoil, although work with district anti-trafficking task forces was suspended when local political bodies were dissolved. Awareness raising programs for vulnerable women and girls, teachers and students, staff of transit homes for returning victims of trafficking, and local government and transport workers were highly successful; strong demand led to the expansion of class size and adding sessions. Critical reviews of both the SAARC Convention on trafficking and of Nepal's labor and migration laws related to trafficking and women's rights to migrate were completed and recommendations discussed with concerned officials. Partner organizations reissued anti-trafficking materials which address the issue from a rights-based perspective and published new materials on trafficking and safe migration.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Nepal

367-007 Governance	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2001		
Obligations	2,550	1,022
Expenditures	0	405
Unliquidated	2,550	617
Fiscal Year 2002		
Obligations	3,112	810
Expenditures	290	550
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	5,662	1,832
Expenditures	290	955
Unliquidated	5,372	877
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA		
Obligations	5,300	600
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	5,300	600
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	5,587	1,000
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	16,549	3,432